I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV 756263109 US, on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: MS PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: August 31, 2006

Signature: (Mary M. Hotchinson)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Shogo Marui et al.

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MS PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of claims fees and examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.